

INTERIM REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
to the
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DEBEN
for the year 1940.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith my Interim Report for the year 1940, as outlined in the recommendations of the Ministry of Health Circular No. 2314:-

STATISTICS

The statistics for this period showed variations parallel with those experienced during the earlier phases of the war. The Registrar-General has supplied the following figures:-

(a) Resident Population (Registrar-General's estimate) mid 1940	}	25,420
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates		

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
(a) Figures for calculating birth rates			
Legitimate	318	172	146
Illegitimate	15	10	5
(b) Figures for calculating infantile mortality rate			
Legitimate	328	177	151
Illegitimate	16	10	6

This gives a birth rate of 12.1 per 1,000 mid-year resident population (England and Wales 14.6).

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1

This gives a still birth rate of 20.5 per 1,000 (live and still) births.

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	355	196	159

This gives a death rate of 13.9 per 1,000 estimated mid-year population (England and Wales 14.3). Using the Comparability Factor the death rate for the area is 11.5.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	2	5.1
Other puerperal causes	1	2.9
	<u>3</u>	<u>8.0</u>

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	34.8 (England and Wales 55)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	37.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	51
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1940.

Disease	Total noti- fied.	AGE GROUPS												65 up- wards	Admitt- ed to Hospit- al	Total Deaths
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45				
Scarlet- fever	59	-	-	2	2	1	22	11	8	11	-	2	-	26		
Diphtheria	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	
Enteric fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	
Puerperal pyrexia	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	-	-	5	2	
Pneumonia	45	-	-	1	1	-	4	1	5	15	6	11	1	5	8	
Whooping- cough	23	-	3	2	1	4	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Measles	36	1	1	6	3	1	14	2	2	5	1	-	-	2		
Infantile paralysis	7	-	2	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	
Cerebro- spinal fever	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	1	-	-	7		
Ophthalmia																
Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-		

The year was not notable for any epidemic prevalence of infectious disease. There was an enhanced incidence of scarlet-fever, whooping-cough, measles and pneumonia, but this could be attributed, at least in part, to evacuation, with its resultant increase in the child population and the admixture of urban children with our rural child population.

The miniature epidemic of infantile paralysis occurred among the children of one parish. The infection may have been introduced by a family recently come from a more congested area. Primary cases were confined to this parish, but one secondary case occurred where a child from another parish, visiting relations in the original area, developed the disease at some interval after the first crop of cases.

The diphtheria notifications comprised one authenticated case among the military population, and one child whose condition was finally diagnosed as diphtheria.

The two enteric fever cases were inmates of a mental hospital. No further cases were found.

Five of the seven cases of cerebrospinal fever occurred among the military.



TUBERCULOSIS An analysis of new cases and of deaths under the heading Tuberculosis is as follows:-

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-								
1-								
5-			2					
10-			1	1				
15-	1		1					1
20-	1							
25-	2				4	1		
35-	2	1				1		
45-	1					1		
55-	2	1			1	1		
65 and upwards								

Nine cases were removed from the Tuberculosis Register for the causes noted hereunder:-

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Diagnosis not established	1	-	1	-	2
Removed to other districts	1	2	-	-	3
Cured	-	1	2	1	4

Cases coming into the district were labelled as follows:-

Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
M	F	M	F	
1	4	1	-	6

All other matters are being held over until a post-war Survey Report can be rendered.

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Medical Officer of Health.

